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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of:

Confirmation Number: 8964

Rieping *et al.*

Application No.: 09/963,668

Group Art Unit: 1652

Filed: September 27, 2001

Examiner: D. RAMIREZ

Title: Fermentation Process for the Preparation of L-amino Acids Using Strains of the Family Enterobacteriaceae

December 29, 2003

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to an official action dated July 29, 2003, wherein the pending claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs, and the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. The applicants respectfully traverse in view of the following amendments and remarks.